DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Aquatic Resources Division
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June 14, 2016

Mr.
XXXXX
XXXXX
XXXXX

SUBJECT: Initial Survey Results: Tidelands Recovery at Bremerton's Buried Pipelines: East Beach Main Replacement and Washington Ave Main Abandoned

Dear Mr. xx:

The City of Bremerton (City) has undertaken a series of projects to upgrade the sewer infrastructure, a portion of which occurs in the nearshore of Dyes Inlet. The current proposal is to replace sewer laterals and a 4,000-foot, 6-inch cast iron (CI) force main on the west side of the Port Washington Narrows, between 2nd Street and the former Chevron Property. Language that states termination of an easement agreement is coupled with the proponent being required to remove all infrastructure and return the land back to original state prior to the agreement. The City proposed to abandon the pipes in place and remain on state managed aquatic lands rather than removal.

DNR has taken the opportunity presented by this recent infrastructure replacement to assess whether the dredging and removal of a sewer main pipe located on nearshore would cause significant long-term disturbance of the habitat. The objectives of the study were to better understand bathymetry, sediment characteristics, submerged aquatic vegetation growth patterns, and a benthic invertebrate analysis of the study area and control site. Due to the nature of the site it is known that both natural and man-made physical impacts have likely contributed to current habitat conditions. Due to the relatively narrow channel width of the inlet, known high currents, and course sand to coble substrate characterize the narrows as a high-energy sediment transport zone. These beaches and nearshore areas along the straits are exposed to strong currents and wind waves which could quickly alter substrate.

Results from comparison of multiple environmental parameters at the 2013 installed pipe, at the decommissioned pipe, and the control sites reveal no significant differences. Observations from DNR staff immediately post-construction indicated very obvious disturbance including muddy, soft substrate at the pipe installation site. It appears there has been recovery of the bed and tidelands. Initial results of the report show that pipe removal did not significantly alter the habitat beyond the ability to recovery. Although recovery is an ongoing process, it does occur after altercation and seems to show that pipe removal only temporarily alters the habitat. There is still sediment data pending and the data report will

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be amended with the results. It is not presumed that the sediment data will alter the discussion of the report. DNR is proposing to continue to monitor the sites over time to determine recovery status.